

GRANTS.GOV BUILD 2006-02 AND 2006-03 AGENCY-APPLICANT SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS

On May 16, 2006, Grants.gov launched numerous system upgrades and enhancements for both the grant community and Federal grant-making agencies. These enhancements will streamline and help troubleshoot the application and submission process. The upgrades and enhancements are summarized below.

1. Invalid characters no longer appear within file names

Users have reported that on occasion, names of files from attached PureEdge documents contain characters which may not appear in valid XML. For example, MS Word often replaces a left apostrophe with ASCII Character 5. ASCII is not a valid character set for XML, however. By using URI encoding for file names, this enhancement prevents invalid characters from appearing within file names.

2. Invalid R&R Budget attachments are rejected

In response to the absence of validation or rejection when users submit a completed PE package instead of a subawardee budget file, this enhancement generates a Receipt Rejection notification whenever an xfd is not an R&R Budget Form. This informs the user of the error and allows the user to replace the invalid attachment with the appropriate subawardee budget files. Upon replacing the invalid attachment with the appropriate attachment, the submission works as expected.

3. Submissions with changed opportunities are now rejected in Receipt

Prior to the upgrade, the removal or addition of forms from an opportunity caused the submission to fail and become stuck in the "Received" state, forcing the PMO to manually set them to "Rejected with Errors" after notifying the applicant. Now, applications that are submitted with forms that are no longer specified in the opportunity, or applications that do not contain forms that are mandatory in the opportunity will be rejected automatically in receipt.

4. Maximum Daily Closings Set to 50

In response to a need to limit the maximum number of closings to 50 per day, the system has been upgraded to limit daily closings to a maximum of 50.

5. Web services submissions now allow attachments to be saved

Prior to the May 16 upgrade, XML and attachments were not being saved on devweb and AT, due to a conflict with an earlier enhancement. Now, users are able to submit web services submissions. Verify enhancement by submitting with and without attachments.

6. Users receive assistance with invalid logins

Users reported that attempts to log in to submit applications with an incorrect username or password results in an error message in which the word “password” was misspelled. After three (3) failed logins, users are redirected from the system, but do not receive information about how to access their username and password. The upgrade has corrected the spelling of the word “password” on the first two (2) of three (3) login attempts. On the third attempt, users are now directed – via hyperlink -- to the Credential Provider for information about their username and password.

7. System now offers PureEdge-to-XML web service

In response to user requests to add a web service that returns XML for any R&R Budget form, the system has been enhanced to allow applicants to receive Grants.gov XML and attachments once PureEdge forms are submitted.

8. Maximum daily closings may be limited

In order to provide an interface for GrantsGovAdmin to limit the number of closings allowed on a particular day, now users with the GrantsGovAdmin role may use the Set Closing Limit function to set the closings limit at a particular number on a particular day. The default closings limit, currently set at 100 per ICB direction, is now configurable. In addition, the enhancement modified the message displayed when users select a closing date that is already full. Now users attempting to select a full date receive the message, “Please Select a Different Closing Date.”

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